

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the third paragraph on page 2 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

In one exemplary aspect, the invention provides an absorbent article comprising a barrier layer, a cover layer extending substantially parallel to the barrier layer, and a superabsorbent polymer interposed between the cover layer and the barrier layer. The superabsorbent polymer is adhered to the article in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in the absorbent article, wherein at least one portion extending essentially completely across the absorbent article is substantially devoid of the superabsorbent polymer. The absorbent article further comprises a core interposed between the cover layer and the barrier layer. The core has a first surface closest to the barrier layer and a second surface opposite the first surface and closest to the cover layer. The superabsorbent polymer is applied to the core in said pattern, where concentration of the superabsorbent polymer varies through a thickness of the core from the first surface to the second surface, with the highest concentration of the superabsorbent polymer being at a portion of the first surface of the core closest to the barrier layer and the second surface of the core being devoid of the superabsorbent polymer. The core is selected from the group consisting of tissue and paper towel sheet.